

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 /062 W

-----240923Z 018113 /12

R 240817Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 188

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE: VISIT OF ROBERT TRENT JONES, JR.

REF: MANILA 1579

1. ROBERT TRENT JONES, JR., LONG TIME FRIEND OF SENATOR AQUINO, CALLED ON CHARGE MAY 24. JONES HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ON SAME SUBJECT IN LATE JANUARY (REFTEL). JONES SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS FILIPINO CONTACTS, INCLUDING ENRIQUE ZOBEL, HEAD OF AYALA CLAN, THAT NOW A PROPITIOUS TIME TO MOVE FOR RELEASE OF AQUINO. CITING HERRERA CASE, CHARGE REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS OUR ONGOING EFFORT PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF AQUINO. HE EMPHASIZED OUR EFFORT TO WORK QUIETLY AND NOT APPEAR TO BE PRESSURING MARCOS. JONES APPRECIATED OUR STRATEGY, BUT REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT NOW A PARTICULARLY GOOD TIME TO PUSH FOR RESOLUTION OF CASE. CHARGE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY JONES FELT THIS WAY, BUT THAT WE WISHED TO AVOID CREATING FALSE EXPECTATIONS FOR MRS. AQUINO, AS WELL AS CONVEYING OR HAVING JONES CONVEY ERRONEOUS SIGNALS TO AQUINO FAMILY.

2. JONES REPEATED HE AND AQUINO'S OTHER FRIENDS WANTED TO BE HELPFUL. HE RECALLED THAT DURING PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY EXERCISE IN 1975 AQUINO FAMILY ASKED HIM TO SPEAK OUT. FACT THAT THEY WERE NOT ASKING SAME THING NOW SEEMED
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INDICATIVE OF AT LEAST SOME CONFIDENCE ON THEIR PART THINGS GOING BETTER. AS PRACTICAL MATTER JONES THOUGHT HE AND HIS FRIENDS COULD ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR AQUINO AT EITHER HARVARD OR STANFORD.

3. AFTER MEETING WITH CHARGE, JONES TOLD EMBOFF HE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION, BUT WAS MOST ANXIOUS NOT TO LET

THIS FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY PASS. HE INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS CASE WITH HIS FRIEND, SENATOR CRANSTON, AND RAISE IT UP WITH OTHER FRIENDS IN GOVERNMENT. JONES SAID HE WAS WILLING TO HELP OR WORK WITH DEPARTMENT ON CASE. EMBOFF PROMISED WE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT.

4. COMMENT: JONES IS OLD FRIEND OF AQUINO WHO HAS STOOD BY HIM EVEN WHEN IT APPEARED HIS LOYALTY MIGHT IMPACT UNFAVORABLY ON HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE. UNDERSTANDABLY HE IS ANXIOUS NOT TO MISS WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIS FRIEND. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, THERE SEEMS NO DIRECT ROLE HE CAN PLAY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, BUT RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM WHEN HE IS NEXT IN WASHINGTON. STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Reference: 77 MANILA 1579
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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SAS ID: 2392806
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: AQUINO CASE: VISIT OF ROBERT TRENT JONES, JR.
TAGS: SHUM, RP, (JONES, ROBERT TRENT JR), (AGUINO)
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